AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1-15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) An electrical device for controlling a generator in an electrical system of a motor vehicle, comprising:

a controller ~~for controlling the generator voltage~~ configured to control a voltage of the generator by outputting a control signal to the generator in response to changes in the generator voltage, wherein the controller provides a first area of operation ~~operating characteristics~~ in which a voltage control is performed to regulate the generator voltage, and at least one second area of operation ~~operating characteristics~~ in which a torque control is performed to regulate a braking torque exerted by the generator;

wherein the generator is coupled to an engine to generate electrical power.

17. (Currently Amended) The electrical device as recited in Claim 16, wherein at least one of: a) a transition between the first area and the at least one second area; and b) a width of the first area and the at least one second area, is defined according to the value of at least one operating parameter of the electrical device that influences one of the torque and the generator voltage ~~a function of at least one operating characteristics variable of the electrical device~~.

18. (Previously presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein the first area for the voltage control extends a specified range from about a setpoint voltage.

19. (Currently Amended) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein the first area is defined as a function of a ~~specified~~ maximum allowable change in torque.

20. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein two second areas are provided for the torque control, and wherein the two second areas extend on both sides of the first area for the voltage control.

21. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein the at least one second area for the torque control lies within a voltage range defined by two voltage boundary values.

22. (Currently Amended) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque variable is controlled to vary linearly ~~according to a linear function~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque-influencing variable is controlled as a function of time and [[an]] the at least one operating parameter of the electrical device.

24. (Currently Amended) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque-influencing variable is controlled according to a functional relationship defined in a characteristics map.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an operation of a generator in connection with a vehicle electrical system of a motor vehicle, comprising:

recording a voltage of the generator, which is coupled to an engine to generate electrical power;

determining whether the recorded voltage lies in a specified range from a setpoint voltage;

performing a voltage control in which the generator voltage is regulated with reference to the setpoint voltage, if the recorded voltage lies in the specified range from the setpoint voltage;

performing a torque control in which a braking torque exerted by the generator is regulated, if the recorded voltage: a) lies outside the specified range from the setpoint voltage; and b) lies within a predetermined range defined by voltage boundary values; and

specifying a highest priority for the voltage control, if the recorded voltage lies outside the predetermined range defined by the voltage boundary values.

26. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein, in performing the torque control, the torque is ~~changed according to a linear function~~ controlled to vary linearly.

27. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein, in performing the torque control, the torque is ~~change~~ changed as a function of time and a specified operating parameter of an electrical device that includes the generator and a controller, wherein a value the specified operating parameter influences the torque.

28. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein, in performing the torque control, the torque is ~~change~~ changed according to a functional relationship defined in a characteristics map.

29. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein at least one of: a) a width of a first area of ~~operating characteristics~~ operation in which a voltage control is performed and a width of at least one second area of ~~operating characteristics~~ operation in which a torque control is performed; and b) a width of a transition area between the first area and the at least one second area, is predetermined.

30. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein at least one of: a) a width of a first area of ~~operating characteristics~~ operation in which a voltage control is performed and a width of at least one second area of ~~operating characteristics~~ operation in which a torque control is performed; and b) a width of a transition area between the first area and the at least one second area, is adjusted according to operating parameters of an electrical device that includes the generator and a controller, during a driving operation of the motor vehicle equipped with the electrical device, wherein the operating parameters influence one of the generator voltage and the torque.